

II. REMARKS

Hogen-Esch relates to a system comprising a portable interface 5 coupled to a mobile station 3. The interface 5 has an electro-acoustic transducer 19, a camera 4, and an acoustic-electric transducer 11 coupled to it. The video camera and the mobile station can be coupled together with the help of the interface 5. However, the couplings between the video camera 4 and the interface 5, and between the interface 5 and the mobile station 3, are not cable couplings, but, apparently, mechanical hardware couplings, as the video camera, the interface and the mobile station together form a portable safety device (abstract, Fig.1). Thus, Hogen-Esch does not teach that the acoustic-electric transducer, the camera and the electro-acoustic transducer are coupled together via at least one cable as recited in claims 1 and 7 of the present application.

Hogen-Esch discloses that the video camera 4 and the interface may be in the same housing (i.e, they are apparently integrated together). It further discloses that the electro-acoustic transducer 19, the acoustic-electric transducer 11, an emergency button 23, and/or a battery 22 may be located in the cover of the camera or the interface. For example, the camera 4, the electro-acoustic transducer 19, and lighting means 24 and/or the acoustic-electric transducer 11 are preferably located in the same cover (col. 4, lines 43-51).

Claims 1 and 7 recited that the transducers and camera are coupled to the mobile station by at least one cable. Since this is not in Hogen-Esch, the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

Further, since this feature is not suggested by Hogen-Esch, these claims are unobvious over it.

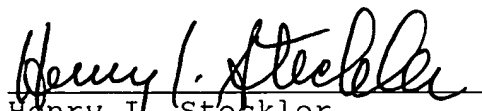
Still further, since this feature is not in Umezawa, combining it with Hogen-Esch does not result in the present invention. Thus the rejection of claims 2-5 and 8-11 under 35 USC 103 on this reference combination should be withdrawn.

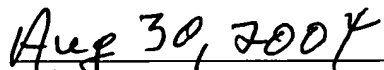
Similarly, Kunitomo fails to disclose the above features. Thus the rejection of claims 6 and 12 under 35 USC 103 on Hogen-Esch in view of Kunitomo should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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